

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3134

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 1153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MZ

SUBJECT: IVP NOMINATION: N'GWENYA VALENTE MALANGATANA

1. CONGEN NOMINATES FOR FULL 30 DAY IVP GRANT N'GWENYA VALENTE MALANGATANA, MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADING ARTIST. MALANGATANA - THE NAME HE USUALLY GOES BY - IS BLACK, 38 YEARS OLD, AND MARRIED WITH SEVERAL CHILDREN. WHILE HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS VIVID CANVASES WHICH, AT LEAST UNTIL APRIL 25, GAVE EXPRESSION TO THE EMOTION BLACK MOZAMBICANS FELT UNDER PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM (A NEW SERIES OF STAMPS IS BEING PRINTED FEATURING HIS PAINTINGS), MALANGATANA IS MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY AN ARTIST. HE HAS BEEN CALLED A "BLACK RENAISSANCE MAN" AND IS AN ACCOMPLISHED POET, PLAYWRIGHT, LINGUIST AND MUSICIAN WITH DIFFUSE INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS. MALANGATANA IS ALSO A BORN LEADER. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION TRAVELING TO DAR ES SALAAM FOR TALKS WITH FRELIMO LEADERS, AND HE WAS CALLED ON TO HELP SETTLE THE LOURENCO MARQUES STEVEDORE AND OTHER

STRIKES. WHILE NOT A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, HIS CREDENTIALS ARE WELL ESTABLISHED AFTER HAVING SPENT 1966-68 AS A POLITICAL PRISONER OF THE PORTUGUESE.

2. IN ADDITION TO AFRICAN DIALECTS MALANGATANA SPEAKS PORTUGUESE, SWAHILI, AND ENGLISH WELL ENOUGH TO GET ALONG WITHOUT AN INTERPRETER. (WHILE INTERPRETER NOT NECESSARY, CONGEN RECOMMENDS THAT ESCORT BE ASSIGNED TO ACCOMPANY MALANGATANA AT LEAST DURING FIRST LEG OF HIS TRIP IN THE U.S.).

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EM TIMING: BEFORE MAY, 1975.

4. PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: OBVIOUSLY, MALANGATANA WILL WANT TO VISIT THE BEST MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES IN THE U.S. IN ADDITION, HE SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS (HE IS A JAZZ FREAK*). HE WOULD ENJOY A FULL PROGRAM IN NEW YORK TO SEE EVERYTHING FROM BROADWAY TO OFF-OFF BROADWAY. THE HARLEM DANCERS WOULD EXCITE HIM. HE SHOULD MEET WITH AMERICAN POETS. (POEMS FROM BLACK AFRICA", UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA PRESS, INCLUDES TWO OF MALAGANTANA'S WORKS). HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SEEING A U.S. UNIVERSITY WITH A STRONG AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM.

5. JUSTIFICATION: MALANGATANA IS A NON-CONTROVERSIAL MOZAMBICAN WITH CLOSE TIES TO FRELIMO. HE IS RESPECTED BY WHITES BECAUSE HE "MADE IT" IN THEIR WORLD; THE BLACKS REVERE AND RESPECT HIM. BECAUSE OF HIS TALENTS, EXPERIENCE,& INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS AND ARTICULATENESS, HE IS DESTINED TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS SOCIETY AND SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE HIS MANY FOLLOWERS POSITIVELY (OR NEGATIVELY) ABOUT THE UNITED STATES.

6. ALTERNATES: FRANCISCO RUI MONIZ BARRETO.
WALKER

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